(स्रोतः "एशियन स्ट्रेटेजिक रिव्यू 1995-96"— रक्षा अध्ययन और विश्लेषण संस्थान)

तथापि, विभिन्न देशों द्वारा रक्षा खर्च के वर्गीकरण और कोटिकरण के वास्ते प्रयुक्त मानदंडों में अंतर होने के कारण ऐसी तुलना में अंतर्निहित कमी है। रक्षा पर खर्च को जाने वाली राशि अथवा किसी देश का रक्षा बजट रक्षा प्रयासों के वास्तविक स्तर को नहीं दर्शा सकता है और यह अन्य राष्ट्रों के साथ समान से समान आधार पर तुलना के लिए आधार भी प्रदान नहीं कर सकता है। उदाहरण के लिए, कुछ देश पूंजीगत कार्यों एवं रक्षा से जुड़े उद्योगों पर हुए खर्च को रक्षा मंत्रालय के छोड़कर, अन्य मंत्रालयों/विभागों के बजटीय आवंटनों के तहत दिखाते हैं। इस तरह के सांख्यिकीय मानदंड युद्ध की विशेषज्ञता के या सही मायनों में सशस्त्र सेनाओं की रक्षा तैयारी का आवश्यक रूप से सही मानदंड नहीं हैं।

Purchase of Russian built submarines

1596. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Chinks in the nation's armour' published in the Pioneer dated 12th May, 1997;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that Government purchased eight seriously impaired Russian Built EKM submarines for over Rs. 800 crores inspite of objections from a number of Naval Experts; and

(c) what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Navy has effectively exploited the submarines of this type since 1986. These EKM submarines are known to have many distinct advantageous design features such as a superior hull design and underwater manoeuvrability; quieting techniques; long range sonar and torpedo. These features give these submarines a combat capability commensurate with the cost of acquisition.

All developments having a bearing on the security of the country and its assets are kept under constant observation by Government and appropriate countermeasures are initiated from time to time, to maintain defence preparedness. The Indian Navy is also re-equipped and modernised in keeping with the emerging threat perceptions.

FIR filed by CBI in HDW submarine purchase

1597. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the FIR filed by CBI in March 1990 in the matter of purchase of HDW submarine by India has been pending without further action;

(b) if so, the details of the case;

(c) the reasons for pendency; and

(d) by when the follow-up action would be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not correct to say that the matter has been pending without further action. Both CBI and MOD have been monitoring the progress of the case quite vigorously.

(c) and (d) The progress of the case essentially depends on the cooperation of the foreign Governments over which CBI has not control, and, therefore, it is not possible to predict a time frame by which the investigations can be completed.

Pilferage of Titanium imported for ISRO

1598. DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the containers in which Titanium was imported from a German firm for India's

space research programme were found to contain bricks meant for construction of buildings, etc; and

(b) whether any enquiry has been made in the matter, if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir. A consignment of Aluminium Vanadium, required for producing Titanium alloy for supply to ISRO and others, was imported by Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd from Germany. Upon taking delivery in March, 1997, it was found that the packs contained mostly masonry bricks.

(b) An FIR has been lodged with the Bombay Police and the matter is under investigation.

IAF Trainee Pilots died in Air crash

1599. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Pilots trainees of Indian Air Force, who died in air crash during the preceding five years;

(b) whether their lives were insured for the training period; and

(c) if not, the reasons and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Five Trainee pilots of the IAF were killed in aircrashes in the preceding five year.

(b) and (c) Trainee pilots of the IAF are made members of the Air Force Group Insurance Scheme (AFGIS) from the date of joining the Training Institute and effective from 1.5.1997 are provided with life insurance cover of Rs. 10 lakhs with monthly contribution of Rs. 800/- and Rs. 560/- for aircrew and ground duty branches, respectively.

Improving the fighting capability of Indian Nevy

1600. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the latest 1997-98 edition of Jane's 'Fighting Ship' wherein it has been stated about Indian Navy that its fighting capability is at all time low; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take to improve the fighting capability of Navy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of steps have been taken as countermeasures to the emerging threat scenario as also to catch up with the force levels. Infact, a two pronged approach has been adopted-first to import ships and submarines to meet the immediate requirements, and second to take recourse to indigenous construction for meeting the long term requirements.

All developments having a bearing on the security of the country and its assets are kept under constant observation by Government and appropriate countermeasures are initiated from time to time, to maintain defence preparedness.

Visits by Defence Minister to U.P.

1601. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Union Defence Minister has used Army planes or helicopters for visiting various places in U.P., the dates and places of such visits;

(b) how many of such visits were officials and non-officials;

(c) whether any persons other than officers of Defence Ministry/forces also